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BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF

FOR 12 FEBRUARY

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1. HAITI: COMMAND SHIFTS POINT TO HARDER LINE

CEDRAS ALSO NAMED PHILIPPE
BIAMBY, A LONGTIME FRIEND CASHIERED IN 1989 FOR TAKING PART IN A
COUP AGAINST FORMER PRESIDENT AVRIL, AS CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF,
AND TRANSFERRED A COLONEL WHO HAD FAVORED NEGOTIATIONS FOR
ARISTIDE'S RETURN OUT OF THE GENERAL STAFF TO THE HAITIAN EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON PORT-AU-PRINCE POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS, ALSO RECENTLY
PROMOTED, HAD BEEN SLATED FOR REMOVAL.

COMMENT: CEDRAS APPARENTLY IS TRYING TO BOLSTER HIS OWN POSITION AT THE EXPENSE OF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THE TRUSTED COLLEAGUES HE HAS ADDED TO THE GENERAL STAFF APPEAR UNITED IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH CEDRAS HAS PRIVATELY SUPPORTED. HE MAY BELIEVE THAT BIAMBY, WHO IS RESPECTED ACROSS THE RANKS, WILL BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN STAVING OFF CHALLENGES FROM THE POWERFUL FRANCOIS.



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